

2015-J3935

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Asian Americans for Equality upon the occasion of its 42nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration on March 17, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend organizations which conscientiously devote their resources and purposeful energies to improving the quality of life in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor Asian Americans for Equality upon the occasion of its 42nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration on Thursday, March 17, 2016, joyfully welcoming the year 4714, the Year of the Monkey; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) is a community-based organization founded in 1974 to advocate for equal opportunities for minorities; for 42 years it has worked assiduously for the benefit of residents of Chinatown, the Lower East Side, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, From its beginnings as a grassroots, volunteer group, Asian Americans for Equality has grown into a preeminent organization offering a comprehensive range of community and economic development activities and services while retaining its commitment to advocacy and community education; and

WHEREAS, Today, AAFE's remarkable variety of programs includes housing development and management, tenant counseling, community technology services, homeownership and mortgage counseling, small business development, and an array of social services; and

WHEREAS, Although New York City's underserved, low-income Asian American immigrant population continues to be a primary focus of Asian Americans for Equality, AAFE works diligently to assist all of the City's underserved residents; and

WHEREAS, Expanding from its base in the Chinatown/Lower East Side of Manhattan areas, Asian Americans for Equality now serves neighborhoods citywide wherever Asian immigrants have settled; and

WHEREAS, While Asian Americans for Equality's programs and services have evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of the community, cooperation among all ethnic minorities and collaborative efforts with other organizations continue to be exemplary hallmarks of its worthy endeavors; and

WHEREAS, On March 17, 2016, Asian Americans for Equality will once again hold its Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, continuing one of its most cherished traditions and proudly honoring members of the community who have, themselves, made significant contributions in keeping with AAFE's mission of promoting equality, racial harmony, and economic empowerment; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will highlight some of Asian Americans for Equality's accomplishments during 2015, including its selection by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in a highly competitive request for proposal (RFP) process to redevelop the Flushing Muni-Lot 3 into a 100% affordable multi-generational residence consisting of 231 units of low and moderate income housing for both seniors and families, with community services, and retail space for local entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, this vital organization's small business affiliate, Renaissance Economic Development Corporation (EDC), was recognized by the United States Small Business Administration as the No. 3 micro-lender based on amount of loans provided among 160 micro-lenders in the country; and

WHEREAS, With new funding from New York City's Legal Services for the Working Poor Initiative, AAFE has increased its organization and legal capacity to serve tenants from Chinatown to Flushing, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights; and

WHEREAS, In addition, AAFE's Sunset Park office will serve as a regular location for the IDNYC Program where new residents can come to get their New York City municipal identification cards; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively serving the community, Asian Americans for Equality has established itself as an organization of distinction and truly merits recognition of its extraordinary accomplishments by this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Asian Americans for Equality upon the occasion of its 42nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration on March 17, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Asian Americans for Equality.